

The Treasury Attache System

By an informal arrangement between the Departments of State and Treasury there was established several years ago the Treasury Attache system. As a result of this agreement, the Director of the Office of International Finance, Department of the Treasury, was empowered to assign members of that office as attaches to various of our Foreign Missions - these missions to be chosen at his discretion.

The procedure which has been followed ever since is roughly as follows:

Upon assignment, the Department of State is advised of the attache's name and proposed destination; a Special passport is issued and the man is cleared through, and informally briefed by, the area desk. Upon reaching the post, the attache reports to the Chief of Mission, to whom he is immediately responsible and whom he is to serve, in addition to his other duties, as financial advisor. In certain instances the attache also serves in other capacities, such as Economic Attache, when such a vacancy exists. With the exception of any informal correspondence with OIF, all of the Treasury Attache's reports, assessments, etc., are transmitted through State pouches on reproducible forms, so that the information contained therein, while acted upon by Treasury, is available to the Department of State.

It is to be emphasized that all arrangements with respect to the Treasury attaches are quite informal. These men do not have diplomatic immunities, they are in no way a part of the Foreign Service (although efforts have been made, unsuccessfully to date, to incorporate them into the Foreign Service), they are not responsible to the State Department in any way, except to their Chief of Mission, and are actually not even subject to budgetary controls, as they are financed from the interest from the Devaluation Fund.

This arrangement has been in effect for several years, and has steadily progressed to the point that it is now considered completely satisfactory by the Departments concerned.